



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. ARMY ENGINEER DIVISION, GREAT LAKES AND OHIO RIVER
CORPS OF ENGINEERS
P.O. BOX 1159
CINCINNATI, OHIO 45201-1159

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

CELRD-PDS-P

11 February 2008

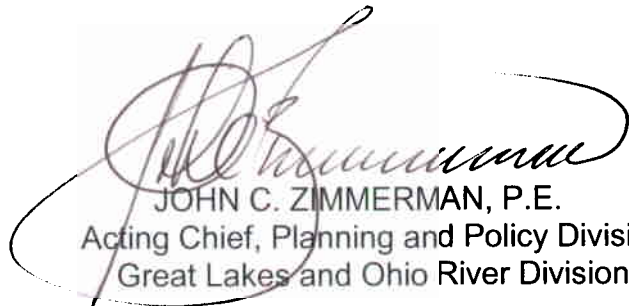
MEMORANDUM FOR Commander, Chicago District

SUBJECT: Major Subordinate Command (MSC) Approval of the Peer Review Plan for Bubbly Creek Ecosystem Restoration Feasibility Study

1. The Peer Review Plan for the Bubbly Creek Ecosystem Restoration Feasibility Study (attachment 1) has been presented to the Great Lakes and Ohio River Division for approval in accordance with memorandum from Major General Don T. Riley, Director of Civil Works, and subject titled "Peer Review Process" dated 30 March 2007.
2. Bubbly Creek was once a pristine wetland system that provided natural aquatic and terrestrial habitats for fish, bird, and mammal species. Bubbly Creek has endured major physical alterations including deepening and widening of the channel, creation of sheet pile banks, complete filling of wetlands within the original drainage area, severe hydrologic alterations including a major increase in drainage area, and introduction of polluted sediments and runoff. Bubbly Creek drains a 30 square mile area of metropolitan Chicago. Bubbly Creek begins near Racine Avenue and 38th Street and the Racine Avenue Pumping Station and flows north into the South Branch of the Chicago River near Ashland Avenue. Stagnant flow conditions, combined sewer overflows, poor sediment quality and poor water quality all contribute to the degradation of habitat and biological integrity in Bubbly Creek. Successful ecosystem restoration is dependent upon restoring the environmental conditions needed for sustainability.
3. The purpose of a peer review plan is to assign the appropriate level and review independence, establish the procedures, and assign responsibilities for conducting the Independent Technical Review (ITR) and External Peer Review (EPR). This peer review plan is compliant with the requirements of the Corps Peer Review Process, which is documented in EC1105-2-408, dated 31 May 2005, and has been recommended by the National Ecosystem Planning Center of Expertise (ECO-PCX). Recommendations and approval from the ECO-PCX are provided as attachment 2.
4. Policy compliance and quality management verification for the Bubbly Creek Ecosystem Restoration Peer Review Plan have been completed. Division staff has confirmed the Peer Review Plan has been formulated in accordance with current policy and concurs with the recommendations by the ECO-PCX for an integrated review process including independent technical review (ITR) because 1) no

influential scientific information will be produced by the study and 2) the risk was assessed as low.

5. The District is requested to post the Peer Review Plan to its web site and provide a link to the ECO-PCX for their use. Prior to posting, the names of individuals in the PRP should be removed.
6. The Peer Review Plan for the Bubbly Creek Ecosystem Restoration Feasibility Study is approved by the Great Lakes and Ohio River Division, Chief of Planning and Policy Division. Point of Contact for this effort is Dr. Hank Jarboe (513) 684-6050 (CELRD-PDS-P).



JOHN C. ZIMMERMAN, P.E.
Acting Chief, Planning and Policy Division
Great Lakes and Ohio River Division

cf: CECW-LRD (Lang)
CELRD-PD (White)
CELRD-PDS-H (Miller)